



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

**Henry L. Green**  
*Director*

### Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

The Bureau of Construction Codes is changing. In the next few months we will be setting up a new office within the bureau. The Office of Local Government and Consumer Services will process ordinances updating codes, applications to administer and enforce codes, consumer complaints against licensees, complaints against local units of government, registration applications for inspectors, requests for approval of training and educational programs, and instructors of training and educational programs.

This office will combine functions that are currently spread throughout the bureau. This new office will streamline the processing of applications and provide for better coordination of activities that affect local communities and consumers. Consolidation of these functions will result in an improved data base, reduced processing time, duplicative functions being eliminated, and will provide an easier method to provide information to the public.

When a local community seeks approval of a code

(Turn to Director's Column on page 2)

## Long Term Bureau Employees Retire

**KAY INGALLS** has worked for the state of Michigan for 34 years. Seventeen of those years have been spent as the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of the Bureau of Construction Codes. Kay held various other positions with the bureau prior to her appointment as Executive Assistant. Because of her years of service, she has often been referred to as the bureau historian even though she only appears to be 29 years old!

It is truly difficult to measure the contribution made by an employee whose dedication to her work has not only been exemplary over her many years of state service but whose dedication and commitment to her job have constantly been at a level above and beyond the call of duty. It is fair to say that her contributions to construction code administration and enforcement over her long career have been outstanding.

She has conducted herself with grace and dignity (except for her very minor problem with chairs) in the performance of her job duties. Those of us who have worked with Kay know and understand that she truly loved her work and that she enjoyed the camaraderie of those who worked along side of her. Her sense of humor will be missed as well as her willingness to provide assistance to her coworkers in virtually any aspect of the program.

It is with immense pride that, we, her coworkers recognize her years of service and many positive contributions to construction code enforcement. But we also recognize with a degree of sadness that her contributions must now come to an end. In closing, we join together with this heartfelt thought: Kay, we wish you the best in a well deserved retirement. You will be missed. We, your family, know that your work and contributions to the safety of the citizens of this state have been tremendous. Godspeed and His blessings as you begin your new career!

**TERRY CASTER** has worked for the state of Michigan, Elevator Safety Division for 27 years. For the last 2 ½ years, Terry has been Chief of the division.

Throughout the course of his career, Caster has exhibited great concern for the safety of the public who utilize elevating devices. One of his overriding concerns has been for the safety of the public who use escalators.

For those of us who have worked with Terry, we know that he has been an "elevator man" his entire professional career. It has been his life's work. We also know that it has been more than just a job, it has been a profession he has thoroughly enjoyed. Terry's knowledge of the elevator industry including the technical aspects of elevator installations is unsurpassed. There is not an elevating device he hasn't seen.

Terry knows practically everyone in the elevator industry including licensees and contractors. His public relations skills and his healthy dose of common sense have served him well with his own staff, elevator contractors, and members of the general public. That blend of human relation skills and technical competence will be sorely missed. We also know that as chief of the division, Terry brought a hands on approach to his job. His willingness to work with his staff and the industry by going the extra mile has been an outstanding example of true public service.

Terry, we appreciate the years of dedication, commitment, competence and enthusiasm you brought to your profession. We know and understand the public safety impact your years of service have contributed to the citizens of this state. We all have been enriched by it. We wish you the best in your retirement career as well as Godspeed and His blessings.

**Director's Column, continued:**

program, the inspector must also be approved under the Registration Act. Coordinating these activities will help in establishing a complete data base and assuring inspection personnel are approved to conduct inspections under a valid ordinance(s). Additionally, consumers will be afforded additional protection through a combined effort of complaint processing, performance evaluation and ordinance review.

Often local communities do not report the loss of an inspector and do not replace them, resulting in no administration and enforcement of the code. Registrants' failure to complete training classes timely has resulted in individuals continuing to inspect without proper registration. This results in complaints that the inspector is not properly qualified to perform the duties and the community failing to properly administer and enforce the codes.

An additional benefit will be a consolidated data information system. This system will retain information on the code being enforced, the inspection and code administration personnel, and whether any complaints exist against the local unit of government. This information will be valuable in reporting the movement of local inspection personnel and aiding in complaint processing and the resolution of complaints against local communities.

## FLEXIBLE GAS PIPING

There are differences of opinions over the proper method of installation of flexible gas piping and the proper use of the product. This article provides an overview of the proper methods by which the gas piping must be installed by answering some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this product.

- (1) Must this be installed strictly to the installation instructions that are shipped with the product?

Flexible gas piping must be installed according to the following conditions:

- A. Shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- B. Shall comply with the Michigan Mechanical Code.
- C. Shall be installed in accordance with ANSI LC 1a-1993 when installed underground.
- D. Can be used in combination with other gas piping materials.
- E. One manufacture's flexible gas piping may not have direct contact with any other manufacture's flex piping or fitting.

- (2) May flexible gas piping be concealed?

Flexible gas piping may be concealed however, some of the fittings are considered to be unions and may not be concealed.

- (3) May flexible gas piping be run directly to an appliance?

Flexible gas piping may only be run to a termination point some place outside of the appliance.

If you have additional questions please contact Tennison B. Barry, Chief of the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 47,500 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, and inspector registrants throughout the state.

Editor-in-Chief: **Henry L. Green**  
 Editor: **Beth Aben**

Bureau of  
 Construction Codes  
 P.O. Box 30254  
 Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-9313  
 Fax (517) 241-9308  
 TDD/Voice (517) 241-9300

## Elevator Safety Division

### Code Update

The Elevator Safety Division reviewed and recommended to the Elevator Safety Board to proceed with adoption of the ASME A17.1-1996, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators. An advisory committee made up of major interest groups affected by the rules has been appointed and approved by the Elevator Safety Board. Meetings will be scheduled in the near future.

### Correction Orders

The Elevator Safety Division has been receiving a number of correction orders from elevator contractors providing compliance on specific correction order items, along with a note that all other items are the owner's responsibility. When an inspector of the Elevator Safety Division issues a correction order to an elevator owner/user, all items on the correction order must be completed before the correction order is returned to the division. Elevator contractors should return the correction order to the owner/user for their signature before sending it to the Elevator Safety Division.

## Boiler Repair Permits

Boiler repairs typically require a permit from the Boiler Division. Permits are issued only to licensed boiler repairers. The Michigan Boiler Law and Rules require that the permit be approved prior to the start of the repair. Realizing that this is sometimes nearly impossible, the Law provides two options:

Option 1 allows for an emergency repair to be made and a request for permit submitted immediately upon completion of repair.

Option 2 allows the boiler repairer to call the boiler inspector for authorization to start the repair and submit the permit application at the same time. This allows the repair to be made while the paper work is in process.

The type of repairs that require a permit are those repairs that affect the pressure integrity of the boiler vessel or piping. Welded repairs and retubing boilers are examples of the types of repairs requiring a permit. Replacing threaded valves, controls, and burner repairs are examples of the types of repairs that do not require a permit from the Boiler Division; however, a permit may be required from the Mechanical Division.

## Bureau Training January 12-15, 1998

The bureau will be conducting annual training for management and inspection personnel during the week of January 12, 1998. Administrative support staff will be in the office and available to answer questions and take messages. Management staff will be in contact with the office on a daily basis. Any call which warrants immediate attention will be returned. If possible, please work with inspection staff to arrange inspections before or after the training seminar.

## Holiday Closings

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

December 24 & 25 -- Christmas  
December 31 & January 1 -- New Years  
January 19 -- Martin Luther King Day  
February 16 -- President's Day

MEETING	DATE	TIME	PLACE
State Plumbing Board	Dec. 9	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Dec. 9	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Electrical Administrative Board	Dec. 19	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Barrier Free Design Board	Jan. 9	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	Jan. 14	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Jan. 22	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Construction Code Comm.	Jan. 28	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Feb. 20	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1

Okemos = 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI

Conference Room 1 & 2 2nd floor  
Conference Room 3 1st floor  
BCC Conference Room 2nd floor

## License Exam Schedule

EXAM	DATE	PLACE	DEADLINE
Elevator Journeyperson	Jan. 14	Okemos	Dec. 26

## NOTICE CONTRACTOR LICENSING LAW CHANGES THREE YEAR LICENSES

On October 24, 1997, Governor Engler signed into law Senate Bills 118, 119, and 120. These bills provide for triennial renewal of licenses for mechanical, electrical and plumbing contractors, respectively. Public Acts 119, 120 and 121 of 1997 were filed with the Secretary of State on October 24, 1997. These amendatory acts also change the renewal dates for contractors throughout the year.

The changes in the licensing laws will space the timing of renewals throughout the year. This provides for more efficient use of staff resources and prompt processing of license renewals. This change will address the annual problem of questions regarding the status of a license.

Mechanical contractor licenses renewed this year will expire on August 31, 2001. The renewal fee due in 1997 is \$244.00. The fee in 2001 will be \$200.00 for a three-year license. The initial license renewal fee includes the cost of extending the renewal period from January to August. Contractors will save \$25.00 in each subsequent renewal period.

Electrical contractors and fire alarm contractors will renew their licenses on January 1, 1998, for a three year period expiring on December 31, 2000. The renewal fee is \$200.00 saving a contractor \$25.00 over each three-year renewal.

Sign specialty contractors will also renew their licenses on January 1, 1998, for a three year period at a fee of \$120.00.

Master and journey electrician licenses will remain an annual renewal on January 1 of each year.

Plumbing contractors will renew their licenses in December of 1997 for a renewal period ending April 30, 2001. The renewal fee in 1997 is \$222.00. Renewals in 2001 will result in a fee of \$200.00 saving contractors \$25.00 over the three-year period. Additionally, journey plumbers will be assessed a pro-rated fee of \$6.67 for licenses renewed in 1997 for the 1998 licensing period ending April 30, 1999. The total fee due for 1998 licenses is \$26.67. Annual renewals of journey licenses in April of each year beginning in 1999 will be \$20.00.

Each contractor seeking licensure or reinstatement of a license in a year other than the renewal years will be charged a pro-rated fee for the year of renewal through the end of the licensing period. By way of example: a person renewing a contractor license in 1999 will be charged \$134.00 plus the one time fee of \$44.00 for mechanical contractors or \$22.00 for master plumbers.

Computer changes are underway to allow issuance of 1998 licenses. Renewals will be processed once the changes have been completed. The renewal notices will include information outlining the changes and the new fees. Questions concerning the renewal may be directed to the Bureau of Construction Codes at (517) 241-9302 or the respective licensing program.

# Bureau of Construction Codes Directory

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR LICENSING COMPLAINTS AND REGISTRATION HAS CHANGED. THE NEW NUMBER IS (517) 241-9347.

**Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (517/241-9347)** - ordinance questions; questions regarding jurisdictions; codes being enforced; complaints against local units of government; complaints against electricians, mechanical contractors, plumbers, and barrier free design requirements; inspector registration, inspector training and educational requirements; inspector training programs; and instructor approvals for education and training.

**Office of Management Services (517/241-9313)** - building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits; electrical, mechanical, and plumbing license renewals; premanufactured labels; code books.

**Barrier Free Design Section (517/241-9300)** - questions on barrier free design compliance; handicapper accessibility; barrier free design exception requests; Barrier Free Design Board meetings.

**Note:** Questions on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be referred to the Great Lakes Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center at 1-800-949-4232 or 1-800-872-2253 for accessibility.

**Boiler Division (517/241-9334)** - boiler general questions; boiler installers license; boiler inspectors license; boiler repairers license; boiler permits; boiler inspections; boiler invoices; boiler code books; Board of Boiler Rules meetings.

**Building Section (517/241-9317)** - building code general questions--i.e., residential, commercial, foundation, drywall, roofing, footings, snow loads, etc.; school construction inspections; state issued building permits; building permit questions; building inspections.

**Electrical Division (517/241-9320)** - electrical code general questions--i.e., wiring; electrical licenses; electrical exams; electrical inspections; Electrical Administrative Board meetings.

**Elevator Division (517/241-9337)** - elevator code general questions; elevator licenses; elevator permits; elevator inspections; elevator exams; elevator code books; any complaints or reporting of accidents regarding elevators; Elevator Safety Board meetings.

**Mechanical Division (517/241-9325)** - mechanical code general questions--i.e., furnaces, HVAC (heating and air conditioning), duct work, solar heating, refrigeration, underground tanks; mechanical licenses; mechanical exams; mechanical inspections; Board of Mechanical Rules meetings.

**Note:** Freon questions **are not** handled through this agency. Please contact the Stratospheric Ozone Hotline at 1-800-296-1996.

**Note:** Calls regarding auto mechanics or auto mechanic licenses **are not** handled through this agency. Please contact the Secretary of State at 517/373-9060.

**Plan Review Division (517/241-9328)** - plan review general questions; plan review status; signing/sealing requirements for plans; premanufactured housing (also called prefabricated housing and modular housing).

**Plumbing Division (517/241-9330)** - plumbing code general questions--i.e., plumbing fixtures, water; plumbing licenses; plumbing inspections; plumbing examinations, State Plumbing Board meetings.

**NOTE:** Questions regarding builders and general contractors are not handled through the Bureau of Construction Codes. Please contact the Office of Commercial Services for:

Builder's examination information	1-800-733-9267
Consumer's verifying a builder's license	1-900-555-8374
Builder's license renewal	517-241-9254
Questions regarding the application for builder's license	517-241-9254
Complaints against a builder	517-241-9202

Printed under authority of Public Act 230, PA 1972 Printed with State Construction Code Funds Total printed: 47,500 Printing cost: \$ X,XXX.00 Per copy cost: \$ 0.XXX each

Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services  
Bureau of Construction Codes  
P.O. Box 30254  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lansing, MI  
Permit No. 1200**